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TS #102377-d

12 July 1956

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

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USA (JIG)

SUBJECT: SNIE 100-2-56: ENEMY CAPABILITIES TO MISLEAD THE US.

1. The Board of National Estimates has given further consideration to the problems involved in producing SNIE 100-2-56. A draft has been prepared which at least illustrates a method by which the subject can be handled in TOP SECRET classification. For your information a copy of this draft is attached; the Board has not reviewed this draft as to substance, however, and is not submitting it for discussion of substance at this time.

2. The Board has concluded that while a basic paper modeled on the lines of the attached draft might be interesting, and perhaps useful, it would be far from satisfying the requirements which gave rise to the request for SNIE 100-2-56. Production of a paper which would satisfy these requirements clearly presents extremely difficult security problems.

3. The Board recommends, therefore, that five task teams be set up, to prepare thorough studies, on a complete, all-source, basis, of the intelligence methods used in connection with five problems of vital importance to US security, and of the possibilities of hoax in each case. These studies might then be produced as annexes to the basic paper. The five problems to be:

- (a) Soviet long-range bombers (i.e. BISON, BEAR, BADGER, and any newer types.)
- (b) Soviet development and production of the ICBM and IRBM.
- (c) The Soviet Nuclear Weapons program.
- (d) Selected Aspects of the Bloc Air Defense Program.
- (e) Warning of Attack on the US.

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4. It is important that each task team include not only persons actually working with the intelligence methods under consideration, but other persons of technical competence not directly involved in the use of these methods. Each task team should be as small as possible within the limits of this requirement. It is suggested that a single member of the Board of National Estimates be designated to chair all five task teams, and to supervise the production of all reports, and it may be desirable that he be the only individual to participate fully in the work of all five teams.

5. The reports of the five task teams, when completed, would be handled with special precautions; in particular, the number of persons given access to all five should be strictly limited. Wherever possible the reports should be boiled down to essential conclusions, with the minimum argumentation required to support the points made.

6. When all five reports have been completed, further consideration should be given to the preparation of a basic TOP SECRET paper along the lines of the attached draft. It might be possible, without prejudice to security, to include in such a paper certain useful conclusions from the five separate task team reports, without supporting data and argument.

7. Since there may be unforeseen difficulties in this process, the Board recommends that instead of starting all five task teams simultaneously the first report (on Soviet long-range bombers) be commenced at once, as a pilot project. If it is successful, the others can be started later.

8. The Board requests that you meet with it to discuss this proposal on Friday, 28 July, at 10:00 a.m.

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Deputy Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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